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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/509,701

09/30/2004

Koichi Abe

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EXAMINER

MARIAM, DANIEL G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/509,701	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ABE, KOICHI	
	<b>Examiner</b> DANIEL G. MARIAM	<b>Art Unit</b> 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Examiner's Note***

1. Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers or figures in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (JP 2001-347038) in view of Blazey, et al (2004/0060976).

With regard to claim 1, Matsumoto discloses a game machine circuit board case inspection method for inspecting a circuit board case (39) storing a control circuit board (38) having a predetermined electronic part (47) mounted thereon (which broadly reads on item 43 or 70), the game machine circuit board case inspection method being characterized by (See for

Art Unit: 2624

example, Drawing 3 and 5-6); and paragraphs 0014-0021) comprising a seal confirming, i.e., judging, step (15) (See for example, item 18, in Drawing 3 and the associated text) for confirming whether or not said circuit board case (39) has been sealed by sealing means (49, 50) (See for example, items 44 and 46 in drawing 3), and (an intrinsic information reading step (18) for reading the intrinsic identification information (48) on said electronic part (47) stored in said circuit board case (39) after said seal confirming step (15). Matsumoto does not expressly call for an intrinsic information reading step for reading the intrinsic identification information on said electronic part stored in said circuit board case after said seal confirming step. However, Blazey, et al. discloses authenticating the identity of a container at an inspection station and for assuring the contents of the container have not been changed using a sealed tag which includes a hidden information containing a unique code, i.e., intrinsic information, and this information is extracted, i.e., read, by capturing an image of the seal via camera, and once or after the seal integrity is confirmed (See for example, paragraph 0025). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching as taught by Blazey, et al. if for no other reason than to provide a unique code that can be read or extracted after the integrity of the seal is confirmed, and to do would at least assure the contents has not been changed or replaced (See for example, paragraph 0008).

Claim 2 is an analogous variation of claim 1, and is rejected the same as claim 1. Thus, argument similar to that presented above for claim 1 is applicable to claim 2.

With regard to claim 3, a game board or game machine inspection method as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that said seal confirming step (15) includes an imaging step (90) for imaging (via camera/s) the sealing state of said sealing means (49, 50), and a seal

deciding step (91) for analyzing the image data imaged in said imaging step (90) to decide whether or not said sealing means (49, 50) have sealed (See for example, paragraph 0021 of Matsumoto).

With regard to claim 4, a game board or game machine inspection method as set forth in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that said intrinsic information reading step (18) includes an imaging step (106) for imaging (via camera) the intrinsic identification information (48) on said electronic part (47), a data converting step (108) for analyzing the image data imaged in said imaging step (106) to convert it into predetermined data, i.e., unique code, and a storing step (ii) for storing said predetermined data converted in said data converting step (108) in a storing section (109) (which correspond to computer/item 190 in Fig. 8)(See paragraph 0025 of Blazey, et al; and Drawing 3 of Matsumoto).

With regard to claim 6, a game board or game machine inspection method as set forth in any of claims 2 through 5, characterized in that between said seal confirming step (15) and said intrinsic information reading step (18), there is a certificate stamp, i.e., tag, affixing step (17) for affixing a management certificate stamp (51) having the circuit board identification information (79) written thereon to said circuit board case (39) (See for example, paragraph 0025 of Blazey, et al).

With regard to claim 7, a game board or game machine inspection method as set forth in claim 6, characterized in that said intrinsic information reading step (18) includes an imaging step (106) for imaging (via camera) the intrinsic identification information (48) on said electronic part (47) and said circuit board identification information (79) written on the

Art Unit: 2624

management certificate stamp, i.e., tag, (51) on said circuit board case (39), a data converting step (108) for analyzing the image data imaged in the imaging step (106) and converting the image data into predetermined data, i.e., unique code, and a storing step (ii) for storing said predetermined data converted in said data converting step (108) in a storing Section (109) (which correspond to computer/item 190 in Fig. 8) (See for example, paragraph 0025 of Blazey, et al.).

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. An unofficial computer English translation of Japanese patent No. 2001-347038 is provided to applicant. An Official English translation will be provided with the next Office Action upon request by applicant.

#### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent Number 6,599,180.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL G. MARIAM whose telephone number is 571-272-7394. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BRIAN P. WERNER can be reached on 571-272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2624

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DANIEL G MARIAM/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624